



MEETING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

The Department of Social Services is proud to announce we have been reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation.

In late September 2017, we hosted a site visit for a three-member COA Peer Review Team, who over 4 days traveled to our many service facilities, communicated with local stakeholders, and validated our policies and practices.

Reaccreditation is a well-deserved honor for each and every one of our staff members. In addition, our internal partners within LFUCG have played a major role in support of Social Services, and have contributed to ensuring we are able to deliver high quality and efficient services to our clients, program participants, and the greater network of human service providers.

Our current accreditation status runs through September 2021. We're ready to carry our momentum into 2018, and beyond.



This month in

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Chris Ford, *Commissioner*
Department of Social Services

INTRODUCING AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES



Aging & Disability Services

195 Life Lane
859.278.6072

(pictured left to right)

Martha Duncan
Program Manager

Kristy Stambaugh
Director

Sean Wright
Senior Program Manager

The Division of **Aging & Disability Services** offers safe and affordable places to spend time engaged in meaningful activities. They are staffed with 13 full-time and 12 part-time team members who have experience working with the senior population.

For more information on current programming, visit the Lexington Aging Services website at lexingtonky.gov/seniors.



Jode Rose, Recreation Assistant, leads the Senior Center's Prime Time Dancers' halftime performance at the UK Women's Basketball game on January 25th.

THE AUDREY GREVIOUS CENTER

Rebranding the Lexington Day Treatment Center

The Urban County Council recently approved the renaming of the Lexington Day Treatment Center in honor of the late Audrey Louise Ross Grevious. The Center's renaming came after several months of review and planning spearheaded by 11th District Councilmember Peggy Henson, Commissioner Ford, and Youth Services Director Stephanie Hong.



Audrey Louise Ross Grevious

Ms. Grevious was born in Lexington on September 30, 1930. She was an educator that believed in equitable instruction for all students. Her education career began as a teacher, and later, head principal at the Kentucky Village Reform School, and then continued as an educator in Fayette County Public Schools, until her retirement.

As a local civil rights activist, Ms. Grevious fearlessly confronted oppression and inequality for African –Americans, she was responsible for organizing numerous non–violent protests and sit–ins during the 1960s. Ms. Grevious served as President of the Lexington chapter of the NAACP; and Vice President of the local chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE). Ms. Grevious died on January 6, 2017, at the age of 86.



The Lexington Day Treatment Center operates on a model of collaboration with local government (LFUCG); our public school district (Fayette County Schools); and Kentucky Department for Juvenile Justice. Ms. Grevious' legacy as a local educator and civil rights activist aligns perfectly with the mission and purpose of the Lexington Day Treatment Center. She exemplified the spirit and commitment of our educators, social workers, and staff members who strive to provide comprehensive, nurturing, supportive services for Day Treatment students.

**The Division of Youth Services is planning an official renaming ceremony
at the Audrey Grevious Center for early June 2018.**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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LOCAL UNSUNG HERO WINS NATIONAL AWARD

CASA of Lexington Executive Director Melynda Jamison

CASA of Lexington Executive Director Melynda Jamison was recently named Program Director of the Year by Kappa Alpha Theta, the National CASA Association's foremost philanthropy partner. She will be officially presented with the award at the upcoming National CASA Conference in Boston. It is the highest honor a director can receive from the CASA organization.



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers are appointed by judges to represent the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. When Jamison became director in 2013, the program had only 71 active volunteers serving 171 children. By 2017, the amount of volunteers more than doubled to 185 and the program served 529 children. Jamison has also grown the program's staff from three to 13 employees to help support volunteers and the children. Congratulations to Melynda, the local Board of Directors, the CASA staff, and the volunteer advocates!

A LEGACY OF SERVICE IN EARLY CHILD CARE

Karen Underwood caps a stellar career

The Family Care Center recently bid farewell to Karen Underwood, its' longtime Early Child Care Manager. Karen has retired after serving at the Center since 1989, even before building construction was complete. Most of her career has been leading the Early Child Care Program, a staple of the 4 programs administered at Family Care Center.

During Karen tenure, the Early Child Care program has continuously maintained its accreditation, and has achieved high ratings by state program officials. Working closely with founding Family Care Center Director Jean Sabharwal, and later with Family Services Director Joanna Rodes, Karen has helped build a solid foundation in early child care. A testament of this success is that a few of Karen's longtime co-workers have joined her in well-deserved retirements, including Early Child Care Program Aides Deloris Boone, Henrietta Lee and Cora Robinson, and Child Care Teacher Angela Johnson.

The Early Child Care Program is now led by Kim Gipson, who began in mid-December, prior to Karen's last day on December 29th. We wish Karen and her teammates all the best in retirement!



BRIANA PERSLEY NOW LEADING PARTNERS FOR YOUTH

Join us in welcoming Briana Persley, our Department's new Youth Advocacy Officer. In this role, Briana serves as Executive Director of the Partners for Youth Foundation, whose mission is to promote positive youth development and to prevent juvenile delinquency through collaboration and capacity building. Briana began at Partners for Youth in November 2017, after serving 15 years as a Crime Victims Advocate for the Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney.



Briana inherits an organization with a history of solid leadership and strong volunteer base. And Briana is very familiar with this impactful work, as she previously served on Partners for Youth's Board of Directors for 14 years, including two stints as Chairperson. Briana's immediate predecessors as Executive Director are Stephanie Hong (2003-2011), and Laura Hatfield (2011-2017), both who currently serve as the Director of Youth Services, and Director of ONE Lexington, respectively. We're excited to add Briana to our team!

CONGRATS TO RECENT SOCIAL SERVICES RETIREES!

Adult & Tenant Services

Richard Flewelling	Eligibility Counselor	<i>December 2016</i>
Bonnie Mayes	Clerical Assistant	<i>December 2017</i>

Family Services

Deloris Boone	Child Care Program Aide	<i>August 2016</i>
Wyteria DeJarnett	Life Skills Program Specialist	<i>February 2018</i>
Angela Johnson	Early Child Care Teacher	<i>January 2018</i>
Henrietta Lee	Child Care Program Aide	<i>October 2017</i>
Cora Robinson	Child Care Program Aide	<i>April 2017</i>
Karen Underwood	Family Services Center Manager	<i>December 2017</i>

Youth Services

Lisa Berman	Clinical Services Manager	<i>August 2017</i>
Glenda Rhodes	Probation Officer	<i>February 2018</i>

FEDERAL GRANT TO HELP EXPAND SERVICES

Underserved Minority Victims Advocacy Program



The Dept. of Social Services was recently awarded a \$95,445 grant to establish the *Underserved Minority Victims Advocacy Program [UMVAP]*. The purpose of UMVAP is to ensure all victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Fayette County have access to interpersonal partner violence services and protections. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is the federal source of grant funding, and is administered by Kentucky's Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

Two (2) staff positions will be created to heighten awareness and expand services for immigrant, refugee, and limited English proficiency communities, and to the African-American community. One position will be stationed in the Commissioner's Office, and the other position at Global Lex. In addition, grant funding will be dedicated to case management and housing assistance for vulnerable and disabled victims.

Kudos to Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator Stephanie Theakston, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator Isabel Taylor, and the Domestic Violence Prevention Board on launching this initiative.

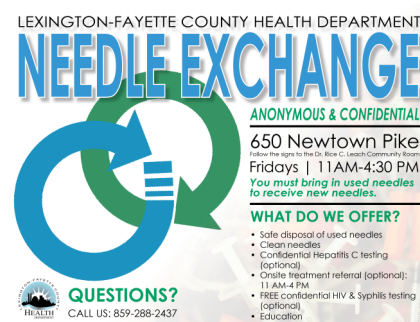
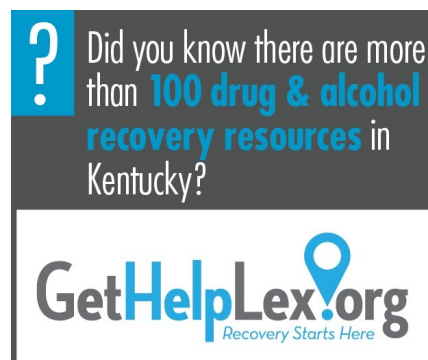
CRAFTING A STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING OPIOIDS

Opioids Needs & Resource Assessment

The Department of Social Services is furthering its leadership role in helping our community address the current opioid and overdose crisis. A Comprehensive Opioids Needs & Resource Assessment has been designed, and a contract executed with the UK College of Medicine, Department of Behavioral Science Center on Drug and Alcohol Research to perform the required research and study.

The assessment will address 2 primary goals: to assess the current capacity for existing services in response to the opioid epidemic; and to identify gaps or unmet needs of local substance use disorder service delivery systems.

UK is scheduled to complete the Needs Assessment by June 30. For more information, contact our Substance Use Intervention Program Coordinator Amy Baker at 859.258.3834, or at abaker@lexingtonky.gov.



TAX SEASON IN PLAY AT CHARLES YOUNG CENTER

The Department of Social Services is proud to again serve as a CKEEP host site, this year at the Charles Young Center in Lexington's East End. Local residents can receive valuable help this tax season through the Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP), which is providing free tax preparation assistance at 17 tax sites around Central Kentucky.

At CKEEP tax sites, IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers work one-on-one with families and individuals to help file their tax returns and ensure that they receive the tax credits for which they qualify. In addition, some sites can direct their customers to financial assistance programs, credit repair services or financial education classes. In 2017, Social Services hosted a CKEEP site at the Black & Williams Neighborhood Center in the West End. A total of 279 tax returns were processed, at not cost to participants.



Central Kentucky residents can go to www.uwbq.org/CKEEP or call 2-1-1 to see if they qualify and schedule a free tax appointment.

The Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP) is a financial stability program of United Way of the Bluegrass, Community Action Council and various partner organizations across Central Kentucky.



MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

Please join us in celebrating the talents and contributions of Lexington's Social Workers



SOCIALWORKERS
leaders. advocates. champions.

Social Workers are nearby all across our community:

Community Service Organizations
Local & State Government Agencies
Hospitals & Health Care Centers
Schools, Colleges, & Universities
Residential & Housing Facilities

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